



Montana Shooting Sports Association

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Asserting the Rights of Gun Owners in Montana

January 23, 2007

In re: HB 287 / 384

Representative John Ward
House Judiciary Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Rep. Ward,

MSSA supports HB 287 for all of the reasons you will hear articulated by proponents during the public hearing. I would like to raise one additional point.

Montana may have the strongest right to privacy in its Constitution of any state. The people of Montana have reserved this right to themselves by putting it into the Constitution. What is the purpose of this right to privacy? What does it mean?

The right to privacy was spelled out in the rewrite of the Constitution by the 1972 Constitutional Convention. The author and chief advocate of this right was convention Delegate Bob Campbell. On the floor of the convention, Bob declared that the right to privacy was intended to prevent "snooping" into the private lives of private people. The placement of the right to privacy in Article II of the Constitution especially restrains government actors - the right to privacy is a direct bar to government action (See St. v. Long, 216 M 65, 700 P2d 153, 42 St. Rep. 643 (1985)).

The purpose of Real ID is to facilitate snooping into the private lives of private people by government actors. Therefore, Real ID is in direct conflict with the right to privacy the people of Montana have reserved to themselves.

Please reject Real ID and support HB 287.

Sincerely,

Gary Marbut, president